

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restricting device adapted to restrict access by another apparatus in response to a request by the other apparatus;

~~a judging device adapted to judge whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;~~

a detecting device adapted to detect whether the request from the other apparatus is a predetermined request ~~from the other apparatus;~~

a discrimination device adapted to discriminate, based on detection by said detecting device, whether [[if]] information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus [[is]] has been updated, ~~in accordance with the detection by said detecting device;~~ and

a sending device which is adapted selectively to execute one of a first and a second sending process based on whether said restricting device has restricted access in response to the request, the ~~in accordance with the judgment by said judging device,~~ a first sending process [[of]] including sending first or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, ~~or a~~ and the second

sending process ~~[[of]]~~ including sending ~~second~~ third information to the other apparatus regardless of whether updating has been discriminated by said discrimination device.

13. (previously presented): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said discrimination device makes its discrimination in accordance with time information included in the predetermined request.

14. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein, in a case in which access-restriction is not made ~~access by the other apparatus is not restricted~~, said sending device ~~sends~~ performs the first ~~information to the other apparatus~~ sending process in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and in a case in which access-restriction is made ~~access by the other apparatus is restricted~~, said sending device ~~sends~~ performs the second ~~information to the other apparatus~~ sending process without performance of ~~the~~ discrimination by said discrimination device,

wherein the ~~second~~ third information is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

15. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said restricting device restricts access by the other apparatus ~~judging device makes its judgment~~ in accordance with whether the network-connectable apparatus is under maintenance.

16. (currently amended): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:  
a restricting device adapted to restrict access by another apparatus in response to a request from the other apparatus;  
~~a judging device adapted to judge whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;~~  
a detection device adapted to detect time information related to information possessed by the other apparatus;  
a discrimination device adapted to discriminate whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ has been updated, in accordance with time information detected ~~the detection~~ by said detection device; and  
a sending device adapted to send, in a case in which access-restriction is not made by said restricting device ~~access by the other apparatus is not restricted~~, first information or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with a discrimination made by said discriminating device, and to send, in a case in which access-restriction is made by said restricting device ~~access by the other apparatus is restricted~~, ~~second~~ third information to the other apparatus regardless of the result of ~~the~~ discrimination made by said discriminating device.

17. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in a case in which access-restriction is made ~~access by the another apparatus is restricted~~, said sending device sends the ~~second data~~ third information to the other apparatus without performance of ~~the~~ discrimination by said discrimination device.

18. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said restricting device restricts access by the other apparatus ~~said judging device makes its judgment~~ in accordance with whether the network-connectable apparatus is under maintenance.

19. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~second~~ third information is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

20. (currently amended): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restriction step of restricting access by another apparatus in response to a request from the other apparatus;

~~a judging step of judging whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;~~

a detecting step of detecting whether the request from the other apparatus is a predetermined request ~~from the other apparatus;~~

a discrimination step of discriminating whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus [[is]] has been updated, in accordance with the detection in said detecting step; and

a sending step of selecting executing one of a first and a second sending process, based on whether access-restriction has been made in said restricting step in response to the request, ~~the in accordance with a judgment made in said judging step,~~ a first

sending process ~~[[of]]~~ including sending first or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination in said discrimination step, ~~or a~~ and the second sending process ~~[[of]]~~ including sending ~~second~~ third information to the other apparatus regardless of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.

21. (currently amended): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restricting step of restricting access by another apparatus in response to a request from the other apparatus;

~~a judging step of judging whether or not access by another apparatus should be restricted;~~

a detection step of detecting time information related to ~~the~~ information possessed by the other apparatus;

a discrimination step of discriminating whether information corresponding to information cached by the other apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ has been updated, in accordance with time information detected ~~the detection~~ in said detection step; and

a sending step of sending, in a case in which access-restriction is not made ~~in said restricting step~~~~access by the other apparatus is not restricted~~, first information or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination made in said discriminating step, and sending, in a case in which access-restriction is not made in said restricting step, ~~access by the other apparatus is restricted~~, sending ~~second~~ third information to the other apparatus regardless of the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.